

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-5, 7-11, 14-22, and 25-27 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 12, 13, 23 and 24 are cancelled. Claim 27 is new, and the remaining pending claims are amended.

Presently, the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,740,086 to Richelsoph.

All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of the independent claims 2 and 20 enclose a blocking element which includes a seat having a part cylindrical profile, a screw-threaded bore and a tightening screw which coacts with the screw-threaded bore end lugs. Also included is an anchoring element having a bottom with part cylindrical profile and a blocking element with part cylindrical profile.

As best seen in Figure 1, these two elements cooperate so as to be able to secure a cylindrical rod. What the Examiner construes as equivalent to Applicant's claimed blocking element is shown in Figure 17 of Richelsoph which is shown as including a plug securing mechanism. This element of Richelsoph does not include a seat with part cylindrical profile as defined by Applicant. The element the Examiner refers to as the blocking element of Richelsoph also does not include lateral surfaces parallel two by two as best seen in Figure 3 with respect to Claim 2, or teeth having a hooking profile turn inwardly of a second opening and above the central surface of each vertical wall which also include above the hooking portions and inclined external profile prolonged in the outward direction by a convexly curved profile with respect to claim 20 as best seen, for example, by comparing these elements shown in Figures 13 and 14 of the application and comparing them with the structure shown in Figure 17 of Richelsoph.

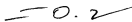
Application No. 10/682,541

Reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance is requested. In the event this response is not timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for the appropriate extension of time and request that the fee for the extension along with any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper be charged to our **Deposit Account No. 12-2355**.

Respectfully submitted,

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